



Raising Yoder's Barn

BY JANE YOLEN

PAINTINGS BY
BERNIE FUCHS

Courtesy art

An Amish story: Author Jane Yolen has penned a powerful picture book that captures the essence of Amish life. "Raising Yoder's Barn" is illustrated by Bernie Fuchs, an award winning children's artist from Connecticut.

'Raising Yoder's Barn' portrays spirit of Amish brotherhood

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By GENE NELSON

Special to The Daily Herald

Author Jane Yolen has penned a powerful picture book that captures the essence of Amish life. "Raising Yoder's Barn" is illustrated by Bernie Fuchs, an award winning children's artist from Connecticut.

Young Matthew Yoder is the youngest son of an Amish farmer and this summer was the first that "Papa let me cut alongside my brothers." He's very excited to be working with his brothers and showing his papa that he has "good hands."

One stormy night in July drastically changes the daily routine for Matthew and his family. Lightning strikes the family windmill and despite all their efforts, the windmill and the barn are lost.

Samuel Stulzfoot, an elder Amish man, is called upon to survey the damage and offer his recommendation. "Clear her" is all he says and the raising of Yoder's barn begins. With the full support of the Amish community, the barn is raised in a single day and prayers are offered in thanks.

Yolen's skillful writing is a major strength of this picture book as the story is revealed in a near poetic fashion. "Lightning, like a stooping hawk, shot straight down toward our barn," is indicative of the flowing language and the vivid imagery.

Not to be outdone, Bernie Fuchs complements the story with beautiful oil paintings that capture the character of the individuals in the book as well as the sense of community found in the Amish culture. Fuchs judiciously utilizes an illuminating white oil that draws attention to certain details of the story within the confines of the natural orange, greens, and browns of the Pennsylvania countryside.

"Raising Yoder's Barn" is a beautiful, warm, sensitive book about caring for one another and helping each other through tragedies and crises. You can find this picture book at the Provo City Library and other libraries in Utah County.

Gene Nelson is the director of Provo City Library.

Study: Women use more of brain in processing language

By **RONALD KOTULAK** and

JON VAN

Knight Ridder Newspapers

State University of New York at Buffalo scientists have confirmed what most women already know; they use more of their brain for processing language than do men.

Using PET scans to watch the living brain at work, the researchers found that men process complex linguistic tasks primarily on the left side of their brain. Women process these tasks on both sides of the brain.

These patterns may correlate with sex-based differences in information processing, superior female performance on language tasks and superior performance by men on visual-spatial tasks, Jeri Jaeger reported in the scientific journal *NeuroReport*.

Violence study

Intimate-partner violence may be more prevalent than previously thought, according to the Georgia Women's Health Survey of women aged 15 to 44 years.

The study estimated that of the 1,691,600 women in this age category living in Georgia, 30 percent had experienced violence from a partner sometime in their life. Twenty percent had experienced such violence in the last year, and of these, 63 percent had sustained injuries.

Low socio-economic status was the biggest risk factor for violence, according to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta.

Health care workers need better training to identify women who are the victims of partner violence and to refer women to shelters, legal aid and other services.

Mothers depressed

More than 1 out of 10 new mothers may suffer from depression and fewer than half of these cases are diagnosed, researchers at the Mayo Medical School, Rochester, Minn., have found.

"Postpartum depression can interrupt the bonding between the mother and child and impair a woman's ability to care for her new child," said Tonya L. Bryan and Ann M. Georgiopoulos, fourth-year medical students.

Out of 909 new mothers questioned, 11 percent reported such signs of depression as a sense of

helplessness and gloom, loss of self-esteem, grief or sadness, anxiety or worry, irritability, suicidal thoughts and retreat from relationships with others, they reported at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

Building bone early vital

Although nearly 90 percent of adult bone mass is formed by age 17, most children do not consume enough calcium to achieve their maximum bone strength.

Building peak bone mass in the first two decades of life is an important factor in the prevention of adult osteoporosis, said Dr. Laura L. Tosi, of George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Girls age 6 to 11 years take in only 43 percent of their daily requirement of calcium, and those 12 to 19 take in only about 14 percent, she reported at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons. Boys 6 to 11 get 53 percent of their requirement, while those 12 to 19 get only 35 percent.

Doctor-kid barriers

Doctors are getting somewhat better about explaining things to patients, but they still have a long way to go when their patients are children.

More than 300 videotaped reviews of pediatric patient encounters found that children played a very small role in their own informed consent sessions, said Dr. Alexandra Maria van Dulmen of the Netherlands Institute of Primary Health Care, Utrecht, the Netherlands.

For every medical question doctors asked children, they asked three of their parents, she reported in *Pediatrics*, a publication of the American Academy of Pediatrics. Doctors directed only 13 percent of medical information to children.

"Children's contributions have been, until now, primarily ignored in communication research, although there are indications that considering their views increases satisfaction and compliance," van Dulmen said.

Jon Van and Ronald Kotulak cover science and medicine for the Chicago Tribune. Write to them at: the Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60611.

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